

THE ● TOKEN HUNTER



A Publication of the

National Utah Token Society

10th Anniversary

Dedicated To Collecting, Recording and Preserving Medals and Tokens

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Pres. Ralph Gold 1-776-2022
v.p. Eric Bernkopf 1-625-0721
treas. Jolene Henderson 967-2975
Sec. Julie Gold 1-776-2022
wagon- Joe Lewis 966-8266
masters Barry Godding 484-6884
Allen Cunningham 1-884-6577
editor Geneal Close 1-224-1357

NEXT MEETING

S M T W T F S

NOVEMBER

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30

SPEAKER :

THIS MONTHS SPEAKER
WILL BE GREGG CRAWFORD
A 45 MIN SLIDE SHOW ON
UTAH POST CARDS.

THE NEXT CLUB MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 19 AT 7:15 AT THE REDWOOD MULTI
PURPOSE CENTER. ITS ELECTION TIME !!!!
WE NEED NOMINATIONS FOR 1993 OFFICERS
THIS MONTHS MEETING IS BEING HELD THE
3RD THURSDAY THIS MONTH.

A & T /5c/ S.L.C.
GREGORY CIGAR STORE /Vc/ .S.L.C.
GOLD LABEL LIQUOR /12 1/2/ S.L.C.
HORSESHOE POCKET BILLARDS /5c/ S.L.C.
DENHALTERS /BOTTLE DEPOSIT/ 10c/ S.L.C.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE NOVEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD THE 3rd THURSDAY INSTEAD OF THE REGULAR 4th THURSDAY. BOYD CRAWFORD IS SCHEDULED TO BRING HIS POST CARD PRESENTATION ON UTAH POST CARDS. HE SPECIALTY IS OGDEN POST CARDS. HE WILL GIVE A 45 MIN. SLIDE SHOW.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR WERE HELD AT THE OCTOBER MEETING AND WILL BE OPEN AGAIN AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING. I WOULD APPRECIATE A STRONG ATTENDANCE, AND LETS HAVE SOME NOMINATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS!! IF ANYONE WANTS TO RUN FOR OFFICE PLEASE LET A FRIEND NOMINATE YOU.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

CHUCK-A-RAMA ON HIGHLAND DR. (30th SOUTH) S.L.C.

DEC. 29 1992 AT 7 P.M.

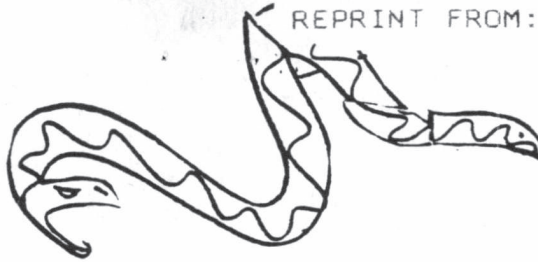
COST: ADULTS -\$9.50
 CHILDREN -\$3.50

PRIZES, AWARDS, NEW OFFICERS, AND A GOOD TIME

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING,

RALPH GOLD





IN THE FIELD...

This article is oriented toward SAFETY IN THE FIELD. In this instance, I'd like to touch on a subject we all must face sooner or later as we traverse the wide-open spaces of Utah. The subject? "SNAKES."

Snakes--the very word sends chills up and down ones spine and sensations of fear and queasiness run through ones body. For many people that's the way it is--but it needn't be so. Snakes are probably the most misunderstood animals I can think of. People fear them because they don't understand them. They deserve our respect but to fear snakes because of our ignorance, or what we've seen on T.V., or rumors we've heard, is to do a great injustice to a magnificent creature. Let me touch on some important details about snakes in hope it may be an aid to you, the reader, and to the snakes of Utah.

First, the ONLY poisonous snakes native to Utah are the pit vipers--the ones we call RATTLESNAKES. Not all pit vipers are rattlesnakes but the ones without rattles (such as water moccasins) are not native to Utah. To simplify, let's just say if it has a rattle, it's poisonous; if it doesn't, it probably isn't.

However, just because a snake doesn't have a rattle, don't think it won't bite! Many snakes will bite when touched or cornered. Although they won't kill you, many non-poisonous snakes CAN inflict nasty wounds. The best example I know of is the Western Desert Whip Snake. This one can be seen any given day during the summer months along the old Pony Express Trail west of Camp Floyd and all the way to Nevada. It is very slender for its length and will strike at anything that touches it. Although non-poisonous, it is fast moving and vicious when molested; however, when left alone, it will flee.

A number of different species of snakes exist in Utah. Many of these can be handled without difficulty if one knows a few simple things about them. Snakes, such as the gopher, king, corn, and garter snake won't bite unless greatly mishandled. Most people don't know that snakes are extremely sensitive to touch. When handling one of these snakes, the most important thing to know is DON'T GRASP THE SNAKE. Snakes want only to be supported or touched by the belly. Although they may be picked up more easily and safely by grasping them just behind the head, they will then squirm and try to get away until the grasp is released. I've found that most snakes are not hard to handle if they are picked up by sliding BOTH hands UNDERNEATH the snake to lift it. They can then be held, studied and even played with without much struggle. They make great summer pets. They only eat from one to four times a month, don't make any noise, are not messy, don't take up much space, and they are great conversation pieces! All in all, snakes are fun and interesting. They are, however, great escape artists. If you've ever had one, you know what I mean! As I mentioned above, they are SUMMER pets. Snakes native to Utah should be released in late summer as they need time to find a safe den in which to hibernate through the winter. Snakes kept as pets over winter generally do not fare well. It's best to set them free in their natural habitat and let nature take care of them.

Getting back to the main reason for this article, SAFETY IN THE FIELD and poisonous snakes, we should look at the mechanisms that make these snakes function. Learning the peculiarities of the rattlesnake can help us understand its behaviour so we can use the knowledge to our advantage should a potentially dangerous situation arise.



First, let's look at the snake's tongue. It pops out, flickers up and down a few times and goes back in thru a tiny hole in the upper lip. This happens every second or two whenever the snake is active. WHY? Because this is the snake's only sense of smell! When extended, the tongue picks up molecules from the air and then it is retracted into notch in the roof of the mouth. This notch, called the Jacob's Organ, interprets the picked up molecules to tell the snake what is around him. Snakes are very near-sighted and need this sense of smell to help them through their habitat.

Next, and perhaps more important for us to know about, is the PIT which sits between the tip of the nose and the eye of a rattlesnake. This pit is why they are called pit vipers. It is a heat-sensitive organ used to detect warm-blooded prey on which the snake feeds. It is a very keen organ and can tell the snake a great deal more than you would believe. This organ tells the snake the size, height, width, diameter and distance away of ANY warm-blooded creature that comes within 5 or 6 feet of the snake. From the snake's viewpoint, it is much better than our eyesight because it even works in the dark. Knowledge of this organ, how it works, and a few other criteria are safety factors we can use to get out of a dangerous situation should one arise.

Let's see how it works. Remember these factors when confronted by a rattlesnake. First, a rattlesnake only strikes for one of two reasons--self-defense or for food. Second, the heat-sensing pit will tell the snake immediately that a human (even a baby) is too large to be swallowed since the snake can only swallow prey up to about twice its own diameter and one-half its length. Because of this, a rattlesnake will only strike a human in self-defense or defense of its nest. Third, the snake loses a great deal of venom after striking and realizes that its defensive and offensive capabilities are greatly diminished for 24 to 48 hours after striking. Therefore, it would rather not strike a human if it doesn't have to. Almost everyone has heard the advice about holding still if you happen upon a rattlesnake and realize it before it strikes. This has happened to me twice. Once near Antimony, Utah, and once in the ghost town of Alunite with my son along. Thank Heaven I'd taught him well and he had faith enough in what I'd taught him that he didn't panic. (I almost did even though I knew better!). Sure enough, within 10 to 15 seconds both times the "Diamond Back" withdrew. Although I've been confronted with many close calls and intense moments in my life, from near terrible accidents on the highways to more than a few terrifying moments during my tour in Vietnam, I don't think I've ever had to fight off fear harder than during that brief moment my son and I stood side by side about 14 inches from a coiled 4 ft. long rattlesnake. It's not a moment to cherish but it sure is one to remember!

Now, let's look at the fangs of the pit vipers. Located in the roof of the mouth, with the snake's ability to open its jaws 180 degrees when striking, the fangs protrude straight ahead during the strike. They are as sharp as cactus thorns and capable of penetrating even a medium thickness of leather; so don't count on a boot to totally protect you from penetration of the fangs although they will keep the fangs from penetrating deeply and MAY keep the bite from being too serious.

Another peculiarity of the reptile is their slithering mode of locomotion which is an adaptation from crawling on legs which they lost through evolution. Yes, snakes evolved from lizards and some constrictors still have remnants of legs and hip joints which are now of no value to them. Snakes also shed their skins a number of times per year instead of just once a year as most people think.

Having discussed how to best DEAL with the confrontation of a snake, we now need to look at what to DO if you ARE bitten by a poisonous snake. There are a couple of dozen viewpoints on this and, as I'm not a doctor, I can't tell you what YOU should do. But I will tell you what I would do! FIRST, I would NOT panic and start running or jumping around because the heart rate MUST be kept down as much as possible. SECOND, I've been told many





times that cutting into the wound and trying to withdraw the poison is usually FUTILE so I wouldn't even try it. What I WOULD do is press on the pressure point of the affected limb to slow down the blood flow rate. Using a belt or even your shirt (with a knot tied in it) as a tourniquet, hold pressure on that pressure point. If you're with a friend (and you SHOULD be--NEVER GO ALONE) have that person put you in a vehicle and get you to the hospital. If you ARE alone, maybe you can get yourself to a hospital or, at least, to a town before you are badly incapacitated by the poison. It doesn't work as rapidly as you might think, especially if the above-mentioned steps are taken and you STAY CALM. Rattle-snake venom is a hemotoxin which attacks the blood, unlike the neurotoxins in the venom of cobras and coral snakes which attacks the central nervous system. It is not as deadly to an adult human as is generally thought. Only about 20 people each year die from snake bite in the United States and MOST of these are from snakes that carry neurotoxic venom--not the pit vipers. I might add here that in the United States each year, more than 100 times that many people are killed by "man's best friend."

In closing, let me touch on a few more items I find interesting about our legless friends. First, don't feel sorry for them because they have no limbs. They have abilities for locomotion and directional stability far simpler and more efficient than those of men. Did you know, for instance, that most snakes can climb trees that even we can't?

Secondly, a snake is a long row of ribs, vertebrae and MUSCLES from neck to tail. They are a lot stronger than they look. Thirdly, the biggest misconception of all is the belief that snakes are slimy! They are NOT. They are very smooth and dry. They do usually feel cool to the touch but that is typical of ANY cold-blooded animal. Lastly, I ask you please DON'T kill a snake just because it IS a snake. They hold a very important niche in our ecosystem as without them, there would be a great many more rodents and many other small nuisance animals that carry human disease. Snakes are our friends even though we have great difficulty relating to them because they are so different from humans.

I hope those of you who have taken the time to read this article will find it beneficial. Space and time do not permit me to pass on all the information about this subject that I would like to give you. If you would like to know more or to talk to me about this at any time, please feel free. I am not a certified herpetologist but just someone who cares about and likes to know about the wildlife in the area where I spend a lot of my time--the beautiful mountains and deserts of Utah.

Ken Lambson, Wagonmaster



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 APRIL 17 1908

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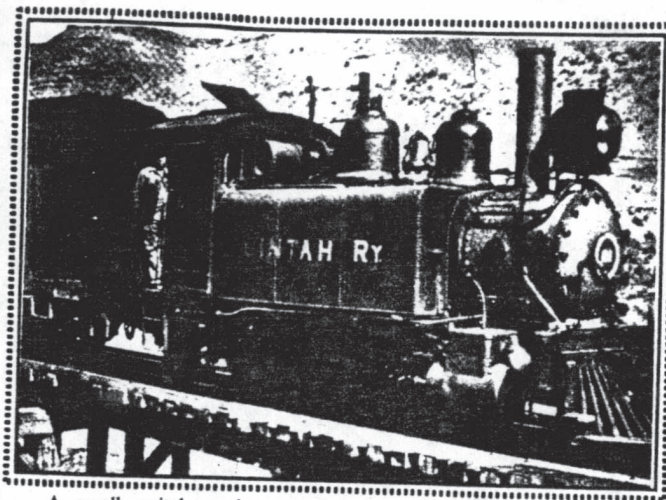
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MAGAZINE SUMMER/AUTUMN, 1989

FORGOTTEN GHOSTS OF THE UINTAH RAILWAY

by George A. Thompson



A small switch engine crossing Vac Creek, near Dragon.

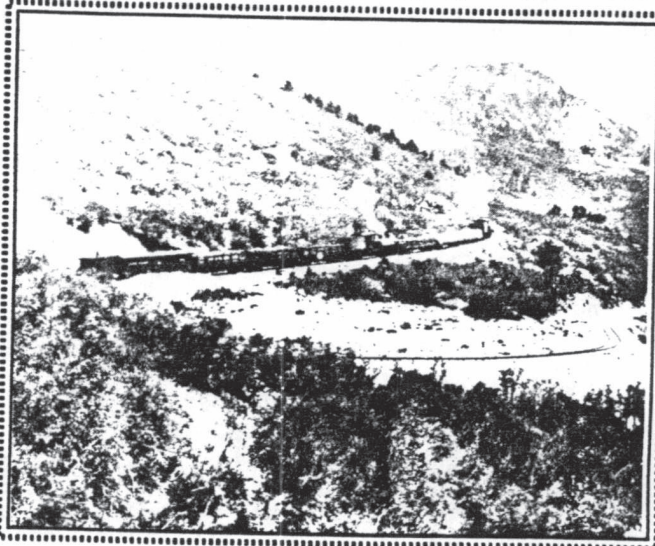
Most western ghost towns were built on foundations of silver or gold, but in the desolate wastelands of northeastern Utah, four forgotten ghost towns whose fortune rose and fell with the price of gilsonite now slowly sag and crumble under the weight of years.

No doubt the strange black asphaltum had been seen by the first mountain men to cross the Uintah Basin, but it was Sam Gilson, a full-time U. S. Marshal and a part-time prospector, who was credited with finding some use for the wax-like mineral which was named in his honor. Old Sam didn't know exactly what he had, but he knew it was unlike anything he had ever seen before. It looked like coal, but it wouldn't burn, and it melted like wax when held over a flame. It was light in weight and proved to be acid-resistant. Scientists recognized the strange new mineral as oil in a solid form, what they termed a hydro-carbon, and they named it Uintaite; but just about everyone else called it gilsonite in honor of Sam Gilson, a name it is still known by today.

In only a few years gilsonite was being mined from surface veins up to twenty feet wide and four hundred feet deep which criss-crossed the barren hills sixty miles south of Vernal, county seat of Uintah County. Gilson's Raven Mine was among the first producers, but the Black Dragon Mine, located in 1888, gave birth to today's ghost towns. In no time at all gilsonite was being used to make all sorts of things, from high quality paint and varnish to stove polish and phonograph records. Model T Fords and Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis were painted with it, while breweries used it to coat the inside of their wooden beer barrels. It seemed that everyone wanted gilsonite, but there was one problem--the mines were 100 miles and more from the nearest railroad.

Huge ore wagons carrying 7,000 pounds of the black, waxy ore made the 100-mile trip across the Ute Indian Reservation to the Rio Grande Railroad at Price, but the arduous and often dangerous trip took six days each way and cost \$25 a ton in freight charges. Clearly a railroad to the mines was needed, but the best engineers of the day all agreed that the mountain canyons and steep grades between the main line of the Rio Grande and the mines were impassible. W. A. Banks, a first-rate surveyor, disagreed with the experts and began searching for a route. Walking the high ridges and crawling around near-bottomless canyons, he investigated every possible grade, leaving a long line of survey stakes behind him. By the end of summer he had a railroad route surveyed. It crossed snow-covered 8,500' Baxter Pass on a 7½% grade, had 66-degree curves, and crossed 75 bridges in 53 miles! Railroad men laughed and said it couldn't be done, but Banks didn't know that it couldn't; so he went right ahead and built it anyway.

When completed at the turn of the century, the Uintah Railway was hailed as the world's steepest railroad, with inclines so abrupt that the iron wheels of regular steam locomotives would just spin on its impossible grades. Special Shay-type engines had to



The Uintah Railway climbing switchbacks to 8,500' Baxter Pass



Miners sacking gilsonite, dug from the deep vertical vein in the background.

be built, gear-driven so that every wheel was a driving wheel. Curves were so sharp that the edges of cars would hit going around them, so special ore cars with round ends were designed. As the locomotive pulled its line of cars up the mountains, switchbacks zig-zagged so closely above each other that often the engine would be travelling in one direction while the cars behind it were going in the opposite direction on a switchback below, and the engineer could wave at the brakeman riding in the caboose! It took years of the hardest kind of work to build the Uintah Railway from the Rio Grande line at Mack, Colorado, to the Black Dragon Mine in the mountains of Utah; but after the first train arrived at the mine, no one laughed at W. A. Banks any more!

Overnight a mining camp named Dragon blossomed and grew on a hillside just below the mine it was named for. Almost as if by magic a schoolhouse, stores, the usual saloons, a library, and what was then described as one of the finest hotels in the state made their appearance. Today trade tokens from the old Dragon Club Saloon are highly prized by collectors. With the new railroad which nearly everyone thought couldn't be built, bigger and better ore discoveries were made in the mountains beyond Dragon. Mines like the China Wall and the Harrison were developed, so that by 1914 rails of the little mountain railroad were pushed ten miles further to a new camp named Watson.

Watson became an end-of-line camp, where stagecoaches left daily for Vernal and settlements beyond on the Ute Reservation. It also boasted a respectable business district, including a saloon run by Henry Lee, a notorious outlaw who had been a long-rider with Elza Lay and Butch Cassidy. The following year the rails

were extended three miles more to Rainbow, where other mines had been located. Rainbow never grew as Watson and Dragon had, for the stage road bypassed it, going by way of a small settlement named Ignacio, but usually known to miners and travellers alike as White River. That old stage line between Watson and Vernal could make a claim no other line in the West could equal. Stagecoaches and freight wagons hauled a two-story brick bank building across 60 miles of mud, rocks, and ruts to Vernal! This is how it happened.

In 1914 the U. S. Postal Department dropped parcel post rates to only one cent a pound, and it didn't take businessmen in Eastern Utah long to realize they could have their goods delivered cheaper by mail than they could by freight. Banker Colthorp at Vernal ordered 100 tons of bricks, all neatly tied up in 50-pound packages, the heaviest weight allowed to be sent by parcel post. Bricks were shipped from Salt Lake City to Mack, Colorado, where they were loaded onto cars of the Uintah Railway. The first shipment of nearly 50 tons of bricks began arriving at Watson, and before the heat of summer set in, stacks of bricks were piled up all along the stage road between Watson and Vernal. Stagecoaches and wagons broke down under the heavy loads. During the summer, the road was worn into ankle-deep dust, which quickly turned into bogs of gumbo mud when winter came. Postal authorities at Washington were deluged with complaints from railroad clerks with aching backs and stage drivers who had become common laborers. Regulations were quickly changed, prohibiting large or unusual packages; but by then Vernal had its new brick bank building, the only bank building in the



An old dugout cabin, about all that remains at Dragon, Utah's gilsonite ghost.

West shipped by mail!

It was fun while it lasted, but all good things come to an end. Better and cheaper products began replacing gilsonite. Ford cars were being painted in colors other than black, while beer barrels were no longer made of wood. But the death knell of the little mining camps along the Uintah Railway sounded when motor trucks began hauling freight into the Uintah Basin cheaper than it could be carried by rail. With its mines closing, the little mountain railroad found itself 100 miles from nowhere, with no place to go.

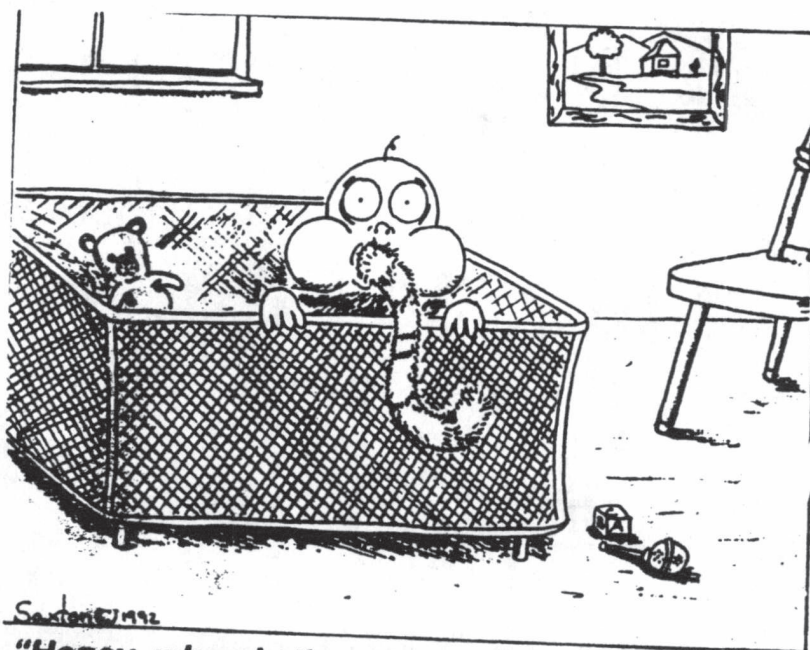
Time has not been kind to the old camps along the gilsonite route. The finest hotel in the state was torn down for its building stone, while houses which could be moved were hauled away. Fires and vandals took many, while the heavy snows of winter claimed others. In 1938 the rails and rolling stock of the Uintah Railway were salvaged for scrap metal, leaving Dragon, Watson, and Rainbow as vagrants with no visible means of support.

Today only a few treasure hunters searching for lost coins or valuable trade tokens make the long, hard trip to Utah's gilsonite ghosts. A forlorn row of log cabins still stands at White River, while only a lone railroad

sign marks the site of Rainbow. A few half-fallen buildings which were once the main street at Watson are slowly being covered with slide rock which keeps slipping down from the mountainside above. Dozens of foundations and sunken holes which once were basements or root cellars are about all that remains at Dragon. In the head-high sage an old sidewalk snakes its way among the ruins, beckoning the ghost towners to even more ghostly vistas. A forgotten cemetery stands forlorn and alone on a barren hillside above the townsite, but it is seldom visited now. Today only ghosts make their home at Dragon, Watson, Rainbow, and White River, the forgotten ghosts of the Uintah Railway.



Even ghosts are lonely at old White River!

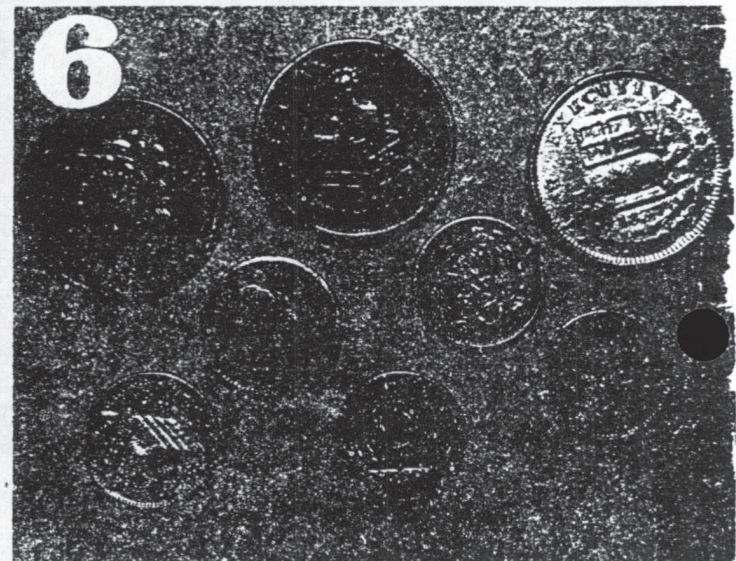
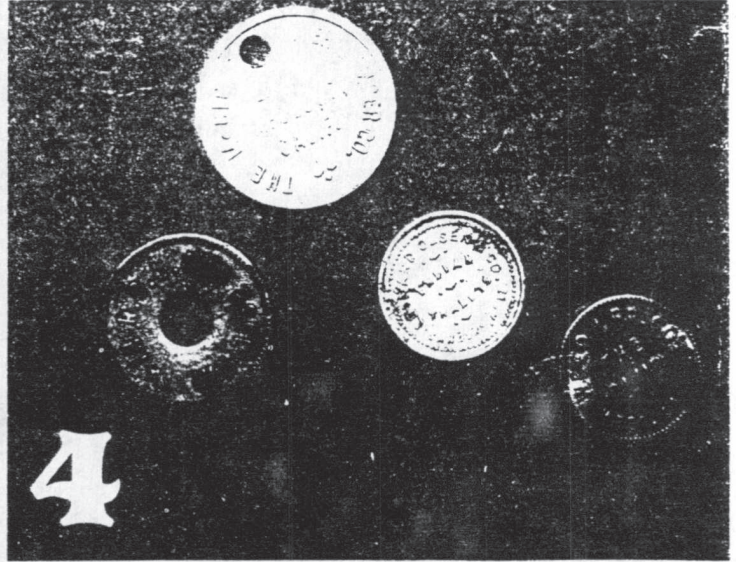
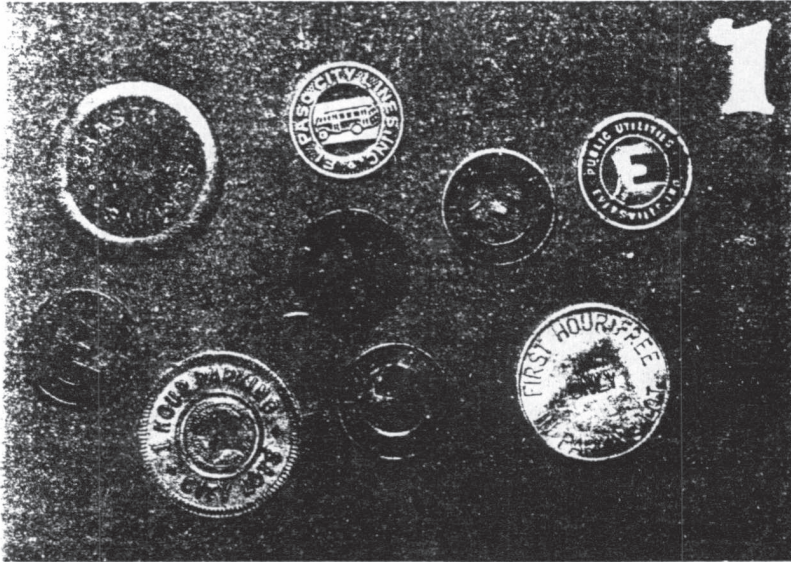


Sexton 1/1992

"Honey, where's the cat, it's time for its bath..."

TRADE TOKENS-- A NOVEL WAY TO COLLECT HISTORY

BY BUD AND EVELINN KANNENBERG



Would you like a three dimensional view of history and a hobby that is relatively inexpensive, highly intriguing, extremely interesting, rewarding and fascinating? Then how about prospecting for the thousands of little treasures known as tokens! Largely overlooked by collectors: tokens, bingles, harpies, scrip—call them what you will—may still be found all around you.

In this political year of 1972, how about "Hard Times Tokens?" In the mid 1830's intriguing and highly collectable tokens were being struck. Usually, these were issued by merchants because of a shortage of small change. Their purpose was also to strike a blow

STORES, SALOONS, EVEN BAWDY HOUSES STRUCK THEIR OWN TOKENS AND USED THEM AS LEGAL TENDER

ecutive Experiment Fiscal Agent 1837." On the other side it has a donkey and the words: "I follow in the Steps of my Illustrious Predecessor."

Another one has a bust of President Jackson in a treasure chest; a sword in one hand and a bag of money in the other, with the words: "I Take The Responsibility." On the other side is a donkey and the words: "Roman Firmness The Constitution As I Understand It."

So the Hard Times Tokens are very historical and interesting bits

FOR ONE DRINK," "GOOD FOR A PACK OF CRANBERRIES," "GOOD FOR A BAR OF SOAP," "GOOD FOR ONE BATH," or how about this one—a bawdy house token! The token reads, "RISTORANTE ORIENTE NAPOLI, GESTIONE B. B. R. 1442." This one was given to me by a friend who was an M.P. in the Second World War. He wishes to remain anonymous. When the allies took over this territory, the restaurant and bawdy house was kept open and used by the military.

Then there are the Civil War tokens. These little treasures are creating more and more interest as collectors become aware of their historic importance. They were used during the Civil War because of a shortage of change. Two types prevail: Patriotic, having various designs such as flags, drapes, drums, cannons, etc. and wording such as Army and Navy, Union, Our Navy, The Union Must and Shall Be Preserved.

The other type is called a Stone Card. These usually had the name of a merchant and business advertisement on them. The use of these tokens became so prevalent (there were literally thousands of varieties struck), that they were prohibited by law in 1864. For, say \$1.50-\$2.00 each, one can get a good representative collection of these gems. We have found several with our metal detector. They were about the same size as the regular pennies in circulation during the Civil War.

Actually, tokens were made out of most all common metals: brass, copper, bronze, white metal, aluminum, but also, they were created from paper, fibre, cardboard, rubber, celluloid, wood—you name it and its probably been used. Just about all shapes are represented: round, square, octagonal, petal, etc. and many have different types of cutouts in the center.

CIVIL WAR TOKENS, INDIAN TRADER TOKENS, HARD-TIME POLITICAL TOKENS—ALL REPRESENT A UNIQUE VIEW OF NORTH AMERICAN HISTORY

for or against the policies of President Andrew Jackson and the United States Bank. The tokens were the same size as the few legal, large one cent pieces in circulation during that period. Normally made of copper, they were honored as legal tender. One of the tokens we have has a slow moving turtle with a treasury box on its back and the words: "Ex-

of political memorabilia. They are still to be found just browsing around flea markets, antique shops, "catch-all drawers" or can be had from coin dealers for two to three dollars each.

At the same period of time, numerous tokens were being used in what is now Canada. New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Upper Canada, Lower Canada, all issued and used tokens. Half penny and penny tokens were common. As were political and advertising pieces; "PURE COPPER PREFERABLE TO PAPER," "NO LABOUR — NO BREAD," "SPEED THE PLOUGH," etc. A great variety of these fascinating tokens are readily available at one dollar and up. The Bouquet Sous of 1837 are very interesting as are the Quebec, St. George and Ontario tokens. These tokens were also used as legal tender.

So what is a token? Could be a piece of metal stamped and exchanged for a higher value than the metal is worth or stamped with other wording, and used for various purposes instead of money. There are tokens that say "GOOD FOR A LOAF OF BREAD," "GOOD

- 1 *Parking and transportation tokens.*
- 2 *One-half and one penny early Canadian bank tokens date back to 1837.*
- 3 *Tokens, from one-cent to one dollar. Note the 6¼¢ (one-half bit) and 12½¢ (one-bit) pieces.*
- 4 *Lumber company and Indian trader tokens.*
- 5 *Tokens pictured here include: OPA, Second World War; Deerlick Springs, Calif. mineral bath token; Bawdy House token #1442 used by military in Europe, World War II; and various trade, tax, gambling, and advertising tokens.*
- 6 *Hard Times political tokens (large) circa 1837, Civil War tokens (small) circa 1863.*

NEARLY ALL SECTIONS OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA USED TRADE TOKENS. HERE IS A FIRST-HAND REPORT ON THE INS-AND-OUTS OF THIS FASCINATING HOBBY

TRADE TOKENS

TRADE TOKENS

You may want to specialize in collecting one type. If you live in a logging area, how about lumber company tokens? Some of the lumber companies had company stores and issued tokens to their workers. That way they not only paid their help but got the money back in the company store, pool hall or saloon. This was also very true with coal companies in the eastern part of the country. A fine collection of coal script may be had very reasonably (usually 10¢ to \$1.00).

We have lumber company trade tokens, pool hall tokens, table checks (used for meals in the company mess halls) and various other types. They usually run from nothing to \$1.00 or \$2.00. We have gotten many of ours from friends.

If you live in Indian territory keep an eye open for Indian Trader Tokens. These tokens that were used in trading posts command a good price and some are very scarce. Though—we recently found a "Leonard Olsen and Co., Indian Traders, Sanders, Arizona," in Medford, Oregon and paid a whole 15¢ for it! So you see—these little treasures can turn up anywhere. This is one reason token collecting is so interesting.

Common tokens (10 to 20 cent class) are the transportation and parking tokens. Also, car wash and many, many different kinds of tax (bad word) tokens. Little did the states realize when they issued the tax tokens, that in a few years the tokens would be worth two bits or so instead of a mill or two! So it goes! Wish we had kept a few hundred.

Regular trade tokens were used by the hundreds of thousands by merchants and certainly helped business. They usually have the name of the business establishment on one side and the denomination on the other; be it 1¢, 5¢, 6¼¢, 10¢, 12½¢, 25¢, 50¢ or \$1.00 in trade.

The 6¼¢ and 12½¢ tokens are very intriguing. When our great nation was founded the Spanish

Pillar Dollar and its pieces or bits circulated freely as legal tender. This silver coin was at times, actually cut into "bits." Hence the words, "two bits," "four bits" and "six bits." This coin and its fractional "bits" were used by our forefathers in setting up our present dollar decimal system. So—12½ cents is "one bit" and 6¼ cents is a "½ bit." We believe the Spanish dollar was actually used as legal tender in the United States up to 1857 or thereabouts.

Many people (including both Ev and I) have a token talisman. One which has special meaning to them and which they carry for "luck" and use as a "walking conversation piece."

If all the foreign tokens do not interest you, how about the O.P.A. tokens that were issued during the Second World War? Military mess tokens, mineral bath tokens (Deerlick Springs), advertising tokens, templar tokens, Masonic tokens, gaming tokens and —OK! that's enough—Ev says my treasure hunt has turned into an obsession! You know, as usual she may be right but it's the greatest treasure hunt you could ever go on!

This tale might be longer but yesterday, just before dark, while going over the flat spot on a hill which once must have been a saloon, our detector pointed out a one-of-a-kind billiards token for me. So, since it's almost daylight now, we've gotta head back to the "long-gone saloon" and more HAPPY PROSPECTING!!

Bud & Ev Kannenberg



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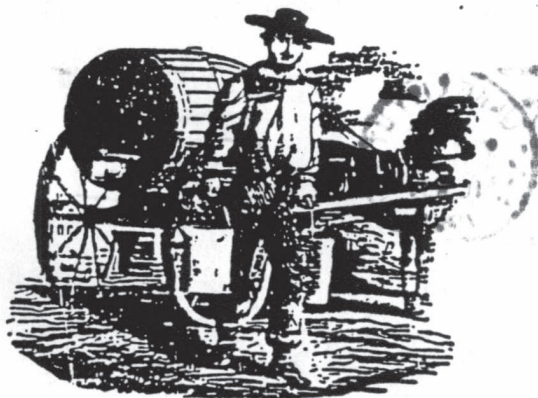
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